Unauthorised use of military vehicles and personnel

†1531. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any complaint to the effect that civil dressed military personnels are deployed by Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, shalimar Bagh, Delhi in the school premises or personnel security and the military vehicle is frequently being used in an unauthorised manner;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted/action has been taken by the Ministry on the said complaint;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Facts of case have been verified and it is found that the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shalimar Bagh who is the wife of a Defence Service Officer, had travelled to the school in an official vehicles with some escorts on few occasions apprehending violent action from one of the employees of the school against whom suspension order was issued due to his indisciplined behaviour.

Modernisation of IAF

1532. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IAF is seriously thinking of acquiring about 250 aircraft and upgrading the existing fleet in the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of the aircraft that the force is going to acquire and aircraft that are going to be modernised;

(c) whether the Ministry is also thinking of acquiring UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) as part of its modernisation plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The IAF has formulated a Modernisation Plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength in terms of quality as well as quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squardron force levels, for upgradation of existing fleet and for induction of force multipliers like UAVs. It would not be in the national interest to disclose further details.

Act of Sati committed by women in Madhya Pradesh

1533. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Act of Sati committed by a women in Samoti Patna village of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was not much social and official resistance to the outrange, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that worship of Satis and glorification of the act is still common in some parts of the country and helping to promote and sustain the practice, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps taken in the above case, so far alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) On 6.8.2002 at around 9.10 a.m., information was received in police Station Saleha distt. Panna through Ramadhar Chaurasia that a person called Mallu Sen, aged between 70-75 years of village Patna Tamoli died and his wife Smt. Kuttu Bai intended to commit sucide on the funeral pyre of her husban. On receipt of information, Station Officer of Saleha Police Station and one Constable reached the village with arms. Around 1000 people had already gathered near the cremation ground. The funeral pyre of Mallu Sen was burning at one end and Smt. Kuttu Bai stood near the funderal pyre. The people who gathered at the spot were provoking Smt. Kuttu Bai to sit on the funeral pyre of her husband. Station Officer tried to dissuade them from doing this. But they paid no heed to him and pelted stones at the Station Officer. Then they forcibly made Smt. Kuttu Bai sit on her husband's funeral pyre. Station Officer caught hold of Smt. Kuttu Bai's hand and tried to pull her out of the funerl pyre. but the crowd present there not only prevented him from doing so